

Saturday Gazette.

Bloomfield and Montclair, N. J.

WM. F. LYON, Editor and Proprietor.
CHAS. N. DAVIS, Associate Editor.

OUR PRINCIPAL OFFICE is next door to the Post Office in Bloomfield.

TOWN AFFAIRS.

Two or three weeks since we took occasion to refer to town matters with a view to draw public attention to a consideration of the condition of the town, especially as it respects improvements and progress during the year. We have reason to believe that that article was productive of good. Citizens are thinking and talking over matters suggested therein and will be better prepared to manifest individual sentiments at the March meeting.

We now recur to the same subject. Our remarks will be of a general character and apply equally well to both towns.

On the 10th of March last, in Bloomfield, and on the 1st of April, in Montclair, there were elected by the free suffrages of our intelligent peoples the following officers for the succeeding year:

In BLOOMFIELD.

An Assessor—Joseph K. Oakes.
Three Commissioners of Appeals—R. N. Dodd, C. J. Turner and J. C. Beach.

A Collector—J. Campbell.

Seven Town Committee-men—J. C. Beach, J. F. Sanxay, C. T. Unangst, S. J. Potter, P. J. Ward, A. Yearance, and Willard Richards.

Township Clerk—J. F. Folsom.

Two Surveyors of Highways—N. H. Dodd, and J. K. Oakes.

An Overseer of the Poor—W. R. Hall.

Four Constables—S. E. Perry, C. B. Hoff, M. Davis and N. B. Adams.

A Judge of Election—John Hall.

Two Chosen Freeholders—Wm. Cadmus and T. W. Langstroth.

In MONTCLAIR.

An Assessor—A. E. Van Gieson.

Three Commissioners of Appeals—J. J. H. Love, N. H. Pillsbury and A. A. Sigler.

A Collector—E. C. Fuller.

Five Town Committee-men—Alfred Taylor, E. Williams, J. H. Parsons, C. W. Mills and Phil. Doremus.

A Township Clerk—C. P. Sandford.

Five Commissioners of Public Roads—S. Holmes, N. T. Carter, H. B. Littell, J. C. Brantigan and T. C. Van Riper.

Two Surveyors of Highways—Charles Smith and E. T. Gould.

An Overseer of the Poor—N. O. Corby.

Three Constables—U. Corby, E. J. Backron and George Ungemah.

A Judge of Election—N. O. Pillsbury.

Two Chosen Freeholders—M. W. Smith and G. J. Wheeler.

The Assessorship is one of the most important offices in the town. It affects every citizen in his most sensitive and tender part—the pocket. It affects the honor, improvement and progress of the town, the County and the State—for it supplies the alimony by which they exist, develop and mature, and take honorable rank among their peers. To perform its duties well requires a man of intelligence, experience, liberal views, independent opinions and discriminating judgment.

In our opinion the law is at fault in not giving him two equally competent assistants, or associates constituting a board of assessment.

We do not know that it is incumbent on this officer to make a report to the town meeting, but it would doubtless be a great satisfaction to the people to have a detailed report of the exercise of his functions during the year, and the results he had arrived at. They would better appreciate his onerous labors and would gain much valuable knowledge respecting the different classes of property as well as the varieties of character in the population of the town.

He could doubtless tell us of the real property, how much is farm land and how much mere village lots, how many dwelling houses of a first-class (costing \$10,000 or more) of a second class (costing from \$5,000 to \$10,000), and of third class (costing under \$5,000), and how many barns, how many manufactories of each different kind, how many work shops, and how many stores for sale of merchandise.

Of the population we believe it is his duty to ascertain the number, the sexes, the marriages, births and death, all of which would be an interesting feature of his report. Other details may also be regarded important. A full report from the Assessor could and would be wisely made the basis for action at the town meeting and all through the year by the township committee. The Commissioners of Appeals are but an appendage of the Assessorship, and there are some who think the office would be run as successfully and as justly without that casual addition.

We shall consider in our next office of the town. We are also happy to offer our columns to a free expression of thought and opinions on these subjects, and sincerely hope the opportunity will be embraced.

MONTCLAIR GAS AND WATER COMPANY.

Mr. Smalley, President of this company, and holding several other important and exacting offices, finding it necessary to be relieved from some of his onerous responsibilities, has retired from the presidency of the Gas Company.

Our citizens, and the public generally will be glad to learn that Dr. Joseph A. Davis has consented to accept the office, which was pressed upon him, and he was at once, unanimously elected President. This will insure efficiency in its management, courtesy in its dealings with its customers and confidence on the part of its stockholders. Mr. Horace Pierson, well and favorably known, has been appointed Treasurer. The office is to be transferred to Bloomfield, and will be opened at the Centre.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We have failed of receiving in time a number of communications promised, in just laudation of the merits and attractions of certain aspects of these towns. We shall, of course, be very happy to give them place in our next numbers.

We are printing an extra number of copies of these interesting issues of the GAZETTE in order that the friends of the paper and of these towns may be able to get copies to send to the cities or elsewhere, and we hope citizens will take an interest to place them in the hands of many who are thinking of removing to the country.

This being good St. Valentine's day, that facetious old gentleman will smile very complaisantly upon the liberties which will be taken in sending anonymous letters with significant indications. It is hoped that our young folks will show their good taste by keeping within respectable bounds.

We have succeeded in engaging the services of a Regular Correspondent for Caldwell, who will favor our readers with weekly communications from that lovely specimen of a true country village. His first interesting communication will appear next week.

For the Saturday Gazette.

WHAT SHALL OUR FUTURE BE?

By EVAN EVANS.

What shall be the future of our village? That is a question for very serious consideration. In few communities are there such possibilities as in this. Every gift that nature could provide she has lavished upon this wonderful hillside. To it have come those who love culture, intellectual and social refinement and a high standard of morals. It has excellent schools and churches, and the whole spirit of the place has something to please and improve. It is now becoming prominent and attractive. We believe that the era of its growth has but just commenced. It is very appropriate that those who are so largely connected with the real prosperity of the town should inquire anxiously in regard to its future. The most important question to be answered is—What is to be its moral character. "As the twig is bent the tree is inclined" runs the old proverb, and it is no less true of social than individual life. There are suburban towns not far away that reproduce all the vices of the metropolis. Shall it be true of this? Is it not possible for the predominantly moral and Christian people of this beautiful region in these days of its youth to consecrate this place to morality, temperance and good order? If it is not done now it will soon be impossible. There have been some brave and many steps in the direction of temperance reform. Because there is no one to follow up the victory, are its benefits to be lost? There ought never to be sold another glass of liquor in this place with legal sanction. Our Local Option Law will prove a blessing if rightly enforced.

There should be perfect equity in the administration of justice and no chance for corruption ever to gain a foothold. But to prevent this, great care and sacrifice must be exercised. The present inhabitants must look to all the little details of the politics of the place. The purest men must be unremitting and earnest at the primaries and at the polls. Many an evil gains a permanency because the primary political meetings are left to the doubtful care of the professed politician.

The intellectual standard of the people should ever be lifting. "A little leaven leavens the whole lump." There are very many among us qualified at least by example and personal influence to be our teachers. They can give direction to amusements so that they shall improve as well as please. And may it not be said that a community that includes among its inhabitants two artists of such acknowledged rank and excellence as Charles Parsons and Harry Penn should at least receive from them some occasional instruction in the principles of an Art education which would be the beginning of extended improvement in taste. We are very complimentary people in Montclair but not so self-satisfied that we should not answer this all important question—What shall our future be? On this foundation there may be built an edifice which shall be beautiful within and symmetrical without. Correct morals and good order may rule, temperance and virtue be the flowers of our social life; honesty and manliness mark all our dealings one with another; real refinement of mind and character and the graces of true and consistent culture add increasing attractions to the charms that nature has given. May the performance of the future equal the promise of the present.

Montclair, Feb. 6, 1874.

For Saturday Gazette.

FAT PEOPLE AND LEAN.

SALUBRITY OF BLOOMFIELD.

Julius Caesar, as Shakespeare has it, entertained a premonitory dread of Cassius, because he had

"—a lean and hungry look;
—such men are dangerous."

"Let me," he says.

"—have men about me that are fat,
—Sleek-headed men and such as sleep
—o' nights."

But Caesar should have considered that the situation and physical features of Rome were not such as to promote the development of the highest health and plumpness of its denizens. Though called the "seven hilled city," its boasted hills were very small hillocks and the eastern bank of the river Tiber was so low as to subject the city to frequent inundations; while unwholesome vapors from the neighboring Pontine marshes were at times floated up to the city by the south winds.

"Men that are fat"—men of robust

health, clear-eyed, clear skinned, and rosy-checked—men of exuberant spirits, to whom the mere sense of existence is a luxury—men who emphatically "sleep well o' nights," are most reasonably to be looked for in healthful locations—locations sufficiently elevated to be free from miasma, and to be open to the movement of refreshing and purifying currents of atmosphere.

I know I am not claiming too much, when I claim that Bloomfield, Montclair, and their environs, possess a salubrity of climate so conducive to health, as to render them very desirable places of residence.

So far as I know they cannot be surpassed in this respect by any location within the same distance of the great metropolis.

My own family have resided in Bloomfield but a few years. Previous to coming here, we had resided four years in a quarter of a city which was "genteel," and in every way desirable, except that the ground was low and so subject to chills and fever that myself and every other member of my family suffered more or less from attacks of it; and my youngest boy, some two years of age, became so very weak and "lean," that even Caesar need not have feared him if he had been a man. In fact, I was fearful that the child would die; but since our residence here this child has become plump and vigorous, and the general health of my whole family has been good.

In determining the favorable influences of the climate of this locality on health and longevity, the following mortality statistics are worthy of attention: The number of deaths reported in Bloomfield and Montclair for 1873, was 182 out of a population of 10,000, being considerably less than two per cent, or a death rate of only about 18 to 1,000 of population. Of these nearly one-half (87) were old people over sixty, and infants under one year, in whose cases death would not generally be attributed to climate or atmospheric causes. Deducting these, the death rate would not exceed ten in one thousand.

What other village population of ten thousand can show a cleaner health bill? I. P.

Bloomfield, February 9th, 1874.

For Saturday Gazette.

THE CENTRE, BLOOMFIELD.

February 5, 1874.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—In answer to the request in last week's GAZETTE, I venture to send you a few remarks in vindication of good old Bloomfield Centre. I am well aware that it is customary now-a-days to crack up the high places—such "magnificent views," such "bracing air," so "high above the sea," &c. Now, I am thankful that we do not have to resort to any such whistling to make us happy. We live near each other and have a chance to know each other's worth from actual contact in our homes. If we should happen of an evening to become a trifle envious, instead of going to the barometer to find how bracing the air is, we don our rigatons and run in next door, to have a chat with good brother X. and his excellent wife. If we are through with our sewing a trifle earlier than we expected, we don't sit down at the window to "enjoy the view," but we take our baskets and go over to poor Mrs. K.'s to see how she is getting on with the new stove some of us "collected" for her. And when the bell rings for meeting, we don't have to hurry off for a long walk to church, or neglect to go because the horse isn't sharp-shod, but deliberately step up to the church and thank God that we live under the droppings of His sanctuary. And so we say, give us our home in the centre of the town, near the schools, stores and churches—near our friends and near the poor—where in quiet independence we can do our duty and enjoy life. And so we grow old less fast and are of more use in the world. MARIA.

For the Saturday Gazette.

BLOOMFIELD.

FROM A MORAL AND RELIGIOUS STANDPOINT.

MR. EDITOR: At your request, I hasten to fill a small space in your "Special Column," speaking for Bloomfield.

In regard to the situation of Bloomfield for healthfulness and attractiveness, much has been said, and may yet be said in its favor. Aside, however, from this consideration, a kindly word may be added, looking from a moral and religious standpoint.

The moral and good standing of our people, of all classes, compare favorably with any community. This is a fact which may not be controverted. And this is a question of moment to those intending to take a "new departure" from the crowded cities, and seeking the quiet and retirement of town, or village life.

Again, another prominent question arising with such, is—What are the religious or church advantages offered? Happily, Bloomfield may give a most satisfactory answer to this question.

Let us look around us. At the head of the "Village-green," stands the "Old Church"—the very corner-stone, as it were, of the town. Here our Presbyterian brethren, of the most orthodox type, may find an inviting place of rest and consolation.

But a little removed from "the Green" stands the churchy edifice of the Westminster Presbyterian congregation—the off-shoot of the "Old Church." Here may be found an earnest, active people, with, we think, a few of the "straitest" ideas laid aside.

Within a stone's throw from this, looms up the solid, brick walls of the Baptists. Here our Baptist brethren may find a home and rest with the promise of pleasant companionship.

Then there is the active, hard-working Methodist community. With but a plain, unpretending church edifice, yet within, all is aglow with religious zeal and fervor. Coming up "the Green" we discern the "little Church around the corner." Here, with pleasant and appropriate surroundings, the time-hallowed service of the Episcopal Church may be enjoyed.

Nor should we forget the more recently built house of worship for our German population; nor indeed, the Episcopal and Methodist chapels, at Watessing.

Really, Mr. Editor, looking at this matter from our present standpoint, I see not why you may not be able to induce all the world to come and settle down in Bloomfield.

Still I presume, people will think for themselves. And whilst we thus "put our best foot forward," we fondly hope that the world will not, at least, think ill of us for that, if we only tell the truth.

XXX.

[P. S. by the Editor.—Seven highly honored clergymen minister weekly with acceptance and fidelity from these pulpits with a holy unction, and move daily among the people of the town, practically illustrating a godly life and offering, as occasion suggests, encouragement and consolation to all.]

HOME MATTERS.

BLOOMFIELD.

WEATHER CHRONICLE.

Range of Thermometer at Bloomfield Centre. Feb. at 6 7 8 9 10 11 13 7 A. M. 12° 14° 15° 0° 28° 16° 16°

Sleighting still holds on.

STEWALKS.—It was certainly very creditable to the good taste as well as to the benevolent feelings of our citizens that the snow was so promptly and so generally removed from the sidewalks. In most cases the walks were cleared before 8 o'clock in the morning; in West-end it was done before 7 o'clock. But no where was it so beautifully and completely accomplished as on Belleville Avenue, in front of the fine residence of Messrs. E. Davy, J. W. Snedeker, J. F. Sanxay and E. L. Van Derwerken; and on Central Avenue in front of those of Messrs. G. W. Cook, Ichabod Howell and Vice-Chancellor Dodd.

SLIGHTING.—The snows of last week have spread the earth, in all this elevated region, with a beautiful robe of purest white, and of six to eight inches thickness. The frozen condition of the ground is favorable to a continuance of the sleighing which has been excellent, and much improved to the delight of all that love this Winter sport. Our wide avenues illuminated for seven miles by gas, have been the chosen routes for sleigh riders.

MAIL FACILITIES.—Bloomfield and Montclair have two mails a day, morning and afternoon. The office at Bloomfield is a money-order office.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.—At the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the German Theological School of Bloomfield, the following note was read by Dr. Siebert, to whom it had been sent:

ROSELVILLE, Feb. 2, 1874.

"To the German School, Bloomfield, N. J.—Enclosed find one hundred and sixty-one dollars, proceeds of fair held April 8th, 1873, for your school, by the little girls, four in number, belonging to the Roselville Presbyterian Sunday School.

Signed—Addie Griffith, Laura Periam, Florine Parker, Lizzie S. Schink."

Dr. Siebert said on presenting this letter with its contents, that nothing which had occurred in all the history of the institution had given him more pleasure and encouragement than this incident.

E. Wilde's Family Store, at the Centre, has a varied and well-selected stock of dry goods.

Martin Brothers seem to be much encouraged with the patronage they receive. These attentive and courteous young men deserve it. Their store is neat and their stock of groceries includes the usual variety, at reasonable prices.

LADIES' RELIEF COMMITTEE.—The Officers and Managers of the Ladies' Relief Committee, of Bloomfield, will meet at the residence of Miss Anna L. Ward, on Monday, the 18th inst., at 8 o'clock, P. M.

Mrs. R. N. Dodd, Sec'y.

Bloomfield, Feb. 10, 1874.

SPECIAL SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH.

Wednesday of next week will be Ash Wednesday, or the first day in Lent. During the first week, services in Christ Church, Bloomfield, will be as follows:

Morning Prayer, 9 A. M.; Evening Prayer, 7 P. M.; Special "Mission Services" at 7:45 P. M. All are invited.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—The inauguration of the new financial scheme last Sunday, was very satisfactory, and successful. Some six thousand dollars were pledged and the January instalment was collected by envelopes.

LADIES' RELIEF SOCIETY.

BLOOMFIELD, Feb. 9th, 1874.

Received from Collection 1st. Presbyterian Church—

From individual contributions as follows: E. Folmer \$3.00, Mary Ailing \$2.00, T. Stafford \$1.00, E. F. Carrington \$2.00, Maria Foster \$2.00, Miss Wilde \$1.50, Rev. J. S. Gallagher \$3.00, F. DeFries \$2.00, Miss St. John \$2.00, Rev. Titus Joselin \$10.00, J. R. Bartholomew \$25.00. Officers and Managers of the Society \$37.00.

91 00

Total.....\$174 36

Disbursements.....58 39

Balance on hand.....\$115 97

Also received a few donations of Clothing—

Also from J. C. Ward, 1 barrel of Flour.

We would call the attention of all who may be interested in the Society, to the fact that only with the most generous donations can we be enabled to meet the pressing and urgent need for help, which is indispensable to a multitude of our citizens.

No one listening to the recitals of our canvassing committee, or looking over our records, for even the short time in which our society has been in operation, can for a moment question the reality of the suffering in our village, and the necessity that there is for some organized means of relief.

Whatever misgivings our Executive Committee may have had of the beneficent results of this christian charity, which our townspeople have initiated, they have all been dissipated.

be many

Sting Sing, Friday Jan. 23, 1874.

To the Editor of the New York Times:

Our appeal which appeared in the Times of 22nd inst., has already begun to yield its fruit. Several persons have expressed a desire to have some central place of deposit where they can send donations of books, magazines and papers as they may collect them. Therefore I will name as that depot the store of L. B. Tibbels, Esq., of No. 513 Broadway, Mr. Tibbels kindly consented to take care of and forward them to us.

G. B. HUBBELL,

Agent and Warden.

Bloomfield, Dec. 1873.

phases which poverty often assumes. Families have been found where help has been most welcome and timely—where courage has taken the place of despair—the hungry have been fed—the unclad have been clad—and the shivering, warmed.

Then let all those persons who are blessed with the good things of this life, give from their abundance unto such as are in distress.

ANNA L. WARD, Treas'r.

MONTCLAIR.

Professor Edward S. Morse, of scientific celebrity, and who has just completed, with flattering success, a course of popular illustrated lectures on Natural History, has been engaged by the Montclair High School to deliver a lecture on the same subject here on Saturday evening, 14th of February. The single Lectures of Prof. Morse are especially prepared for audiences of the most general character, are in every way popular, and are brought within the easy comprehension of every one. All who can attend will be amply repaid.

There is to be a splendid vocal concert with artistic renderings of some of the choicest English Glories, on Monday evening at the Presbyterian Church, by Misses Beebe and Finch, and Messrs. Bush, Rockwood, Beckett and Aiken. Mr. Florio, Pianist.

C. H. Wyman's is the only dry good store in our village. It is well-stocked and handsomely attended. Let him have all the trade in his line which his variety and prices justify.

Hayden & Owens have just been adding a new supply of wall paper, including a variety of handsome and tasteful patterns.

On Wednesday, next, being beginning of the Lenten season, there will be service in the Episcopal Church here at 11 a. m. All are cordially invited.

For the Saturday Gazette.

Mr. Editor—You probably observed the communication in the Times of Jan. 22nd, from the Warden of Sing Sing Prison, expressing thanks for the response to his request for reading matter for the prisoners under his charge, and an appeal for further supplies.

Would it not be a good plan for the people of Montclair and Bloomfield, as well as every other place, to have a receiving room where all books, magazines and religious papers that cluster most of our houses might be sent, affording a constant source from which monthly supplies could be taken of fresh, valuable reading to these unfortunate? Perhaps the Y. M. C. A., could inaugurate such a movement and depot.

Think of the 1500 men and women confined in that one prison. Measure off, reader, in the pleasant room in which you sit, their cells, 7 feet long, 3 feet two inches wide, 6 feet 3 inches high. Think of this little place as the only one in which to spend perhaps for years, these long, delightful winter evenings which you enjoy so much by your bright, warm fire, your brilliant light, and with your friends, your books, your papers.

Who can wonder as the Warden says: "before we had lights, books and papers, the prisoners were continually forming plans for wrong doing."

Finally, weary of the darkness and idleness some of the prisoners made lamps out of old bottles or bits of earthenware, using a bit of rag for Wick and for oil the grease pressed from their meat. This poor contrivance was better than nothing, but now there is a lamp in every cell and every prisoner may enjoy his book or paper until 9 o'clock.

The prisoners bind all the magazines and keep the books in repair. The papers are given out and when read by one prisoner, he carefully rolls it up and puts it through the grates of his cell door, and it is made the duty of the watchman when passing to pass it through some other door for the use of another prisoner. Even those who could not read when they went there are earnestly learning.

Prof. Taylor Lewis says: "one of man's deceptions is a capacity for falling. Equally true it is that once fallen he never gets back without aid from abroad or on high. His help always comes either from other men who are somehow—we will not inquire by what means—in a higher state or from that heavenly thing which Christians call grace."

There are multitudes of wretched men and women, wretched through this capacity of falling, for whom no hand of man has been reached forth from a higher state. Here is a rare chance to reach some under circumstances which they will certainly improve and certainly be influenced by.

I do not know how many prisoners in our country show intelligent care of their inmates as shown as at Sing Sing, but if such a course could be pursued in every jail and prison in our land who can doubt that it would be an element in reform more powerful than any confinement or punishment.

Not the least, perhaps, of the blessings resulting from this regular supply of reading would be the assurance of the interest which the free and outside world took in their welfare, and many a prisoner would be keenly touched by this.

M. W. C.

Watchung, Jan. 26.

Since writing the above, I find the following in the Times of to-day.

A LIBRARY FOR SING SING.

To the Editor of the New York Times:

Our appeal which appeared in the Times of 22nd inst., has already begun to yield its fruit. Several persons have expressed a desire to have some central place of deposit where they can send donations of books, magazines and papers as they may collect them. Therefore I will name as that depot the store of L. B. Tibbels, Esq., of No. 513 Broadway, Mr. Tibbels kindly consented to take care of and forward them to us.

G. B. HUBBELL,

Agent and Warden.

Bloomfield, Dec. 1873.

For Saturday Gazette.

BLOOMFIELD ORPHAN ASYLUM.

The managers of the Bloomfield Orphan Asylum Society thinking that the patrons of this Society might be interested to know what they are doing, voted at their last meeting to have a public statement made. Many hear nothing of this Society except when they are called on once a year for their subscriptions. Every one who contributes to this Society is considered a member of the same. A public meeting is held the last Thursday in January of each year for the election of officers, to which all are cordially invited. At the last meeting the following officers were elected:

President—Mrs. E. W. Page.